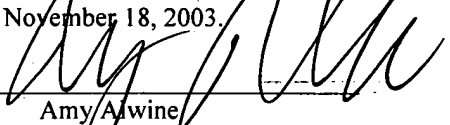


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<p>In re application of:</p> <p>Basol et al.</p> <p>Serial No.: Not yet assigned</p> <p>Filed: November 18, 2003</p> <p>Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM TO PROVIDE MATERIAL REMOVAL AND PLANARIZATION EMPLOYING A REACTIVE PAD</p>	<p>Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned</p> <p>Examiner: Not yet assigned</p> <p>Docket: NT-021D-US</p> <p>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee with Express Mail mailing label number <u>ER452445023US</u> in a postage-paid Express Mail envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 18, 2003.</p> <p>Signed:  Amy Alwine</p>
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this application, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Preliminary Amendment:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.